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15 Jan. 1777 To the Honble the Continental Congress. 237:11.

The declaration and petition of the inhabitants of that part of North America, situate south of Canada Line, west of Connecticut River, North of the Massachusetts-Bay and east of a twenty mile line from Hudson's River, containing about one hundred and forty four townships, of the contents of six miles square each, granted your petetioners by the authority of New Hampshire, besides several grants made by the authority of New York, and a quantity of vacant land.

Humbly sheweth; That your petetioners, by virtue of the several grants made them by the authorities aforesaid, have, many years since, with their families become actual settlers and inhabitants of the said discribed premisses, by which it is now become a respectable frontier to three neighbouring states, and is of great importance to our common barrier Ticonderoga, as it has furnished the army there with much provisions, and can muster more then five thousand hardy soldiers capable of bearing arms in defence of American liberty.

That shortly after your petetioners began their settlements, a party of land-jobbers in the city and State of New-York began to claim the lands, and took measures to have them ~~exploded~~ declared to be within that jurisdiction

That on the 4th day of July 1764. the king of Great Britain did pass an order in council, extending the jurisdiction of New York Government to Connecticut River in consequence of a representation made by the late

Lieutenant

Lieutenant-Governor Colden, that for the convenience of trade and administration of justice, the inhabitants were desirous of being annexed to said state.

That upon this alteration of jurisdiction the said Lieutenant Governor Colden did grant several tract of land in the above discribed limits, to certain persons living in the State of New York, which were at that time in the actual possession of your petetioners, and under colour of the lawfull authority of said state did proceed against your petetioners as lawless intruders upon the Crown-lands in their province. This produced an application to the king of Great-Britain from your petetioners, setting forth their claims under the government of New Hampshire, and the disturbance and interruption they had suffered from said post-claimants under New York. And on the 24th day of July 1767 an order was passed at St James, prohibiting the Governor of New York, for the time being, from granting any part of the said discribed premises on pain of incurring his Majesty's highest displeasure. Nevertheless the same Lieutenant Governor Colden, the Governors Dunmore and Tryon have each and every of them in their respective turns of administration, presumed to violate the said royal order, by making several Grants of the prohibited premises, and countenancing an actual invasion of your petetioners to drive them off from their possessions

These violent proceedings, / with the solemn determination of the Supreme Court of the state of New-York that the Charters, Conveyances &c. of your petetioners

lands were utterly null and void, on which they were founded,) reduced your petitioners to the disagreeable necesity of taking up arms as the only means left for the security of their possessions.

The consequence of the passing of twelve acts of outlawry by the Legislature of New York on the ninth day of March 1774 which were not ~~included~~ intended for the State in general but only for a part of the Counties of Albany and Charlotte, viz, such parts thereof as are covered by the New Hampshire Charters.

Your petetioners having had no representative in that assembly when the acts were passed, they first came to the knowledge of them by the publick papers in which they were inserted. By these they were informed that "if three or more of them assembled together to oppose what said assembly called legal authority, that "such as should be found assembled to the number of three or more, should be adjudged felons; and that in case they or any of them should not surrender himself or themselves to" certain "officers appointed for the purpose of securing them after a warning of seventy days, that then it should be lawfull for the respective judges of the Supreme Court of the Province of New York to award execution of Death, the same as though he or they had been attainted before a proper Court of Judicatory". These laws were evidently calculated to intimidate your petetioners into a tame surrender of their rights, and such a state of vassalage as would entail misery to their latest posterity.

If

It appears to your petetioners that an infringement of their right is still meditated by the State of New York, as we find that in their General Convention at Haerlem the second day of August last, it was unanimously voted "That all the quit-rents formerly due to the Crown of Great-Britain within this State are now due and owing to this convention, or such future government as may hereafter be established in this State."

By a submission to the claims of New York your petetioners would be subjected to the payment of two shillings and six pence sterling on every hundred acres annually, which compared with the quit-rents of Livingston's, Philip's and Rensselaer's Manors, and many of the enormous tracts in the best situations in the State would lay the most disproportionate share of the publick expence on your petitioners in all respects the least able to bear it.

The Convention of New York have now nearly completed a Code of laws for the future government of that State, which, should they be attempted to be put in execution will subject your petetioners to the fatal necessity of opposing them by every means in their power.

When the Declaration of the Honble the Continental Congress of the 4th of July last, reached your petetioners, they communicated it throughout the whole of their District; and, being properly apprised of the proper meeting, delegates from the several counties and towns in the District

2 1, 6

in the District, described in the preamble to this petition, did meet at Westminster in said district, and after several adjournments for the purpos of forming themselves into a distinct and seperate State, did make and publish a declaration, "That they would at all times thereafter consider themselves as a free and independent State capable of regulating their own internal police in all and every respect whatsoever, and that the people in said described district have the sole exclusive right of governing themselves in such manner and form as they, in their wisdom should choose, not repugnant to any resolves of the Honble Continental Congress," and for the mutual support of each other in the maintainance of the Freedom and Independnes of the said district or seperate State, the said delegates did jointly and severally pledge themselves to each other by all the ties of that hold sacred among men, and resolve and declare, that "they were at all times ready in conjunction with their brethren in the United States to contribute their full proportion towards the maintaining and supporting the present just War against the Fleets and Armies of Great Britain

To convey this declaration and resolutions to your Honble body, the grand representative of the United States were we, your more immediate petitioners, delegated by the united and unanimous voices of the representatives of the whole body of Settlers upon the discribed premises, in whose name

name and behalf we humbly pray, that the said declaration may be received, and that the district described therein be ranged by your Honours among the free and Independent States and delegates therefrom be admitted to seats in the Grand Continental Congress — And your Petitioners, as in duty bound &c.

New Hampshire — Grants Westminster,
15th January 1777 —

Signed by order and in behalf of the
General Convention

Jonas Fay
Thomas Chittenden
Heman Allen
Ruben Jones
} Delegates

In Committee of Safety for the State of New York, Fishkill, January 20th 1777.

Whereas until the commencement of the present contest with Great Britain, the inhabitants of Cumberland and Gloucester Counties in general submitted to the jurisdiction of this State; many of them obtained grants and confirmation of Titles from the late Government, and justice was administered by Magistrates of its appointment

And Whereas a spirit of defection and revolt has lately extended to those Counties through the arts and misrepresentations of certain people inhabiting the County of Charlotte, distinguishing themselves by the name of Green-Mountain-Boys, and their emissaries:

And Whereas the Congress and Conventions of this State have hitherto contemplated the effects of their dangerous insurrection with silent concern, being restrained from giving a suitable opposition by the apprehension that it might, at so critical a juncture, weaken our exertions in the common Cause.

And Whereas the said insurgents and their emissaries, taking advantage of the patient forbearance of this State, and flattered by the countenance and strength which they have acquired by being embodied into a regiment under the immediate authority of the Continental Congress and without the consent or Co-operation of this State, have lately ~~inticed~~ cited divers of the Inhabitants of Towns within the said Counties of Cumberland an Gloucester to unite with them

them in assuming a total independence of this State, Assuming a Seperate convention, and framing a petition to the Honourable Congress for its sanction and approbation of this unprovoked revolt

And Whereas the loss of so valuable a territory as is now attempted to be wrested from this State by the violence of an inconsiderable part of its Members, who have, during the present War, received liberal allowances out of the publick Treasury for their more immediate protection, will not only oppress the remainder with the payment of enormous debts which have accrued in the common cause, but must at every future period, expose this State to be intruded into and overrun, its jurisdiction to be denied, and its authority contemned and set at defiance.

And Whereas divers ill disposed persons here, with wicked and sinister designs purposes, reported that members of the Honble the Continental Congress, and other men of influence and authority in the neighbouring States do favor and support the Insurrection aforesaid:

And Whereas the said ill-disposed persons have also insinuated that the Honourable the Congress & do countenance a design of dismembering this State by appointing Seth Warner who hath heretofore been and still continues a principal Agent and abettor of the riot and revolt aforesaid, to command the before mentioned regiment

And Whereas the appointment of said Seth Warner is utterly inconsistent with the usual mode adopted in

Congress and approved of in this and the neighbouring States, and contrary to the express representation in similar cases made to the Hon'ble Congress on the 11. Day of July last by the Convention of this State.

And Whereas such reports and insinuations not only tend to justify the turbulent and disaffected inhabitants of the said Counties, but divers of the good subjects of this State are discouraged from risquing their Lives and Fortunes in the defence of America, while there is reason for apprehending that after all their injurious efforts they have ~~passed~~ suffered and must continue to ~~passe~~ suffer for the Common Cause, and even after a successfull period to the present conflict shall have restored happiness to their Sister States, this State alone may be exposed to havock, devestation and anarchy, and be deprived of great and valuable territorys to gratify the ambitious unjust and selfish projects of its disorderly subjects.

And Whereas the inveterate foes to the Liberties of America, from the earliest commencement of the present glorious contest have endeavoured to alienate the minds of the good people of this State from the Common Cause by representing that nothing less than the power of Great Britain can guard their territorial rights and protect their jurisdiction against usurpation and encroachment, and it is a Truth to be lamented that such representations have prove but to successfull, and have now acquired additional force by reason of the premises;

And Whereas it has become absolutely necessary not only

only for the preservation of the authority of this Convention and the confidence and respect of its Constituents; but for the succeſs of the United States, so far as they depend upon our connexion with this Branch of the Grand American Confederacy, that proper and vigorous means be forthwith exerted for vindicating its rights and asserting and securing its jurisdiction; and as a preliminary step to quieting the aforesaid disturbances, removing the jealousies and apprehensions of the good people of this State, and depriving the wicked emmissaries of Great-Britain of the principal argument by which they hitherto have, and still continue to debauch their minds and seduce them from their allegiance to this State and their attatchment to the Common Cause, a suitable application to the Hon'ble the Congress of the United States may be attended with the most salutary effects, and that in the mean time, coercive measures be suspended.

Resolved Therefore,

That a propper application be immediately made to the Hon'ble the Congress, to whose justice the said insurgents have appealed, and on whose advice they pretend to rely, requesting them to interpose their authority, and recommend to the said insurgents a peaceable submission to the jurisdiction of this State, and also to disband the said regiment directed to be raised by Col. Warner, as this Convention hath cheerfully and voluntarily undertaken to raise a Regiment in addition to the Quota

Assigned

designed for this State by Congress; have opened their utmost resources to the wants and necessities of the American Army; have a very great proportion of their Militia now in the field, and are heartily disposed to contribute to the publick service in every respect as far as the circumstances and abilities of the State will permit

Extract from the Minutes
Robert Benson Secry

Fishkill 20th January 1777.

I am directed by the Committee of Safety of New York to inform Congress that by the acts and misconduct of certain designing men, a part of this State hath been prevailed on to revolt and disavow the authority of its legislature.

It is our misfortune to be wounded so smartly, while we are making our utmost exertions in the common Cause

The various evidences and informations we have received would lead us to believe, that persons of great influence in some of our Sister-States have fostered and fomented these divisions in order to dismember this State at a time when by the inroads of our Common Enemy we were supposed to be incapaciated from defending our just Claims. But as these informations tend to accuse some Members of



your hon'ble

your hon'ble Body of being concerned in this scheme, decency obliges us to suspend our belief.

The Congress will doubtless remember that so long ago as in the month of July last, we complained of this great injury done us by appointing Officers within this State without our consent or approbation. We would not then, nor could we now perceive the reason of such disadvantageous discrimination between this State and its neighbours. We have been taught to believe that each of the United States is entitled to equal rights: in what manner the rights of New York have been forfeited we are at a loss to discover: and altho' we have never received an answer to our last Letter on this subject, yet we did hope that no such ground of complaint would have been offered us.

The convention are sorry to observe that by conferring a Commission on Col. Warner, with authority to name the Officers of a regiment to be raised independent of the Legislature of this State, and within that part which hath lately declared an Independence upon it, Congress hath given ~~but~~ too much weight to the insinuations of those who pretend that your honble body are determined to support these insurgents; especially as Col. Warner hath been constantly and invariably opposed to the Legislature of this State, and hath been, on that very account, proclaimed an Outlaw by the late Government thereof. However confiding in the Honour and justice of the Great Council of America we hope that you have been

surprised into this measure.

By order of the House, Sir, I enclose you the resolutions upon the important subject of this Letter, and am further to observe that it is absolutely necessary to recall the commission given to Col. Warner and the officers under him, as nothing else will do justice to us and convince those deluded people that Congress have not been prevailed on to assist in dismembering a State which, of all others, has suffered most in the Common Cause.

The King of Great Britain hath by force of arms taken from us five Counties, and an attempt is made in the midst of our distresses to purloin from us three other Counties. We may consider the persons concerned in such designs as open Enemies of this State, and in consequence of all America.

To maintain our Jurisdiction over our own subjects is become indispensibly necessary to the authority of the Convention, nor will any thing less silence the plausable arguments of by which the disaffected delude our Constituents and alienate them from the Common Cause. On the success of our efforts in this respect depends, too ~~much~~ probably, even the power of the Convention to be longer serviceable in this glorious Contest. It is become a common remark, that if the State is to be rent assunder, and its influence jurisdiction subverted to gratify its deluded subjects, it is a folly to hazard their lives and fortunes in a Contest which, in any event, must terminate in their ruin.

I have the honour to be,

with

with great Respect,

Sir,

your most obed.t and hble Sert.

By Order, Abraham Ten Broeck, Presidt

Hon.ble John Hancock Esq.

237:19

Kingston, Ulster-County 1 March 1777.

Sir,

The enclosed Letter an Resolutions were proposed some time since, but for reasons with wich you need not be troubled were delayed. Some late proceedings of the disaffected within this State, occasions them being now transmitted.

I am directed to inform you that the Convention are engaged in establishing a firm and permanant system of government. When this important busines in accomplished, they will dispatch a satisfactory state of their boundaries, and the principles on which they are founded for the information of Congress. In the mean time they depend on the justice of your Hon'ble House in adopting every wise and salutary expedient to suppress the mischiefs which must ensue both to this State and the general Confederacy from the unjust and pernicious project of such of the inhabitants of New York, as merely from selfish and interested motives, have fomented this dangerous insurrection.

The Congress may be assured that the spirit of defection, notwithstanding all the arts and violence of the seducers, is by no means general. The County of Gloucester, and a very great part of ~~the~~ both of Cumberland and Charlotte Counties continue stedfast in their allegience to this Government. Brigadier-General Bailey's Letter, a Copy of which is enclosed, will be as sufficient proof of the temper of the people of Gloucester County. Charlotte and Cumberland continue to be

to be represented in Convention, and from very late information we learn that out of 80 Members which were expected to have attended the Mock-Convention of the deluded subjects of this State twenty only attended.

We are informed by good authority that Colo. Warner was directed by the General to send forward his Men as he should enlist them to Ticonderoga, notwithstanding which it appeared by a return from thence, not long since that only 24 privates had reached that Post, nor is there the least prospect of his raising a number of Men, which can be an object of publick concern, though instead of confining himself to the Green Mountains as we understand was the intention of the Honble. the Congress, he has had the advantages of recruiting in Albany and other places

I have the Honour to be,
with great Respect
Sir,
Your Most obedient
and Hble. Servt.
By Order, Abm Yenbroeck, Presidt.

Hon'ble John Hancock Esq—

In Congress, 7 April 1777.

A Letter of the 26th. of January, and one of the first of March last from the Convention of the State of New York, with an Extract from the Minutes of the Committee of Safety of said State, dated January 20th 1777. were received and read

Ordered, That they lie on the Table.

Extract from the ~~Book~~ Journals of Congress

William Ch. Houston, D. Secry.

In Congress 8th April 1777.

A Declaration on Petition from Inhabitants of the New Hampshire Grants was received and read;

Ordered, That it lie on the Table.

Extract from the Journals of Congress

William Ch. Houston D Secry.

Letter from
Ira Allen to Council of Safety, July 15. 1777.
to be found Vol 7. State Papers, Page 231

Letter
From Meshech Weare to Ira Allen
19 July, 1777.

This letter may be found in Slade's Collection
of Vermont State Papers, p. 80.